

Claims:

1. A multifocal ophthalmic lens having a distance optical center, comprising:
a first portion having first focal properties, said first focal properties being substantially constant throughout said first portion; and
a second portion having second focal properties extending downwardly from a location adjacent the distance optical center and having a focal length that varies progressively downwardly in said second portion; and
two regions on either side of said second portion, each of said regions having focal properties selected to avoid optical distortion.
2. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein the focal properties of the two regions are constant and substantially the same as the focal properties of the first portion.
3. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein the focal properties of at least one of the two regions is constant and different from the first portion.
4. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as in claimed in claim 3, wherein the focal properties of the two regions are different from one another.
5. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one of the regions has the same focal properties as the first portion.
6. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the regions has an infinite focal length.

7. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second portions are integral with one another.
8. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second portions are separate and are bonded together.
9. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claims 7 or 8, wherein said two regions are integral with at least the first portion.
10. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in claims 7 or 8, wherein the two regions comprise lens pieces separately formed from the first and second portions and are secured thereto.
11. A multifocal ophthalmic lens as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the lens has an optical distance center and is originally substantially circular, wherein the second portion has side edges located on radii extending from the center of the lens, and wherein said two regions have substantially straight sides located on radii extending from the center of the lens, and wherein the two regions terminate short of the center of the lens.
12. A method of making a multifocal ophthalmic lens for use by a wearer with a field of view containing one or more critical regions for potential visual discomfort, the method comprising the steps of:
 - producing a long-distance lens piece having a peripheral edge;
 - producing a progressive lens piece having a peripheral edge;
 - joining said long-distance lens piece and said progressive lens piece along a portion of said peripheral edges, such that said progressive lens piece is substantially outside said critical regions.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, which includes at least one of: tongue and groove joints; and adhesive bonding the separate lens pieces together.
14. A method as claimed in claim 13, which includes a groove extending around the periphery of the lens and an O-ring located in the groove, for holding the lens pieces together.
15. A method as claimed in claim 14, which includes providing front and rear transparent films substantially covering said front and rear viewing surfaces of the lens.
16. A method as claimed in claim 12, which includes using the lens to produce a mold and subsequently molding integral one-piece lens from the mold.